

# The Herald and News.

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## NEWBERRY MILLS SOUND AND STRONG

### THE LOSSES APPROXIMATE TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND

A Statement Gathered By A News  
and Courier Correspondent—  
The Findings in Cotton  
Made in the Interest of  
The Mill.

Col. August Kohn, Columbia correspondent of the News and Courier, was sent to Newberry last Thursday to see what was in the rumors regarding the Newberry cotton mill, and to report the same for the News and Courier. He spent the entire day here and sent the following letter which was printed in Saturday's paper.

For some time past there have been rumors regarding the Newberry Cotton mill, but investigation shows that the mill's solvency and credit are not affected, as was stated in the News and Courier Thursday. Even should the surplus and accumulated profits be wiped out by losses which have been suffered, the mill would still be entirely free of debt.

A suggestion of this trouble was printed in the Carolina Spartan, of Spartanburg, and some comment was made in the News and Courier of Thursday. With a view of ascertaining the facts, this correspondent was detailed to visit Newberry and inquire into and report upon the facts without prejudice to any one, and certainly without doing any one injustice.

An entire day was diligently spent in inquiry, but the conditions certainly are very complicated, and the statements directly conflicting. With the information that is available, after the most persistent and painstaking efforts, the conclusion must be reached that the Newberry Cotton mill has lost about \$200,000 in some way. Directors of the Newberry Cotton mill claim that this loss has been brought about by the injudicious and unauthorized investments in cotton futures by the late president of the Newberry Cotton mill, Mr. Thomas J. McCrary. On the other hand, friends of Mr. McCrary insist that whatever action he took in this matter was authorized by the board, and that there was not a dollar lost by the direct or indirect action of Mr. McCrary. A majority of the directors of the cotton mill were seen, and while they do not authorize any statement upon this matter and will not give anything out for publication, I am told that Mr. McCrary's investments were unauthorized, and a complete surprise to most of them, and that they had no idea in the world that Mr. McCrary was dealing in cotton futures on account of the mill.

It is also stated in Newberry that explanatory facts have been found reducing the amount of the losses to \$140,000, and it is held by some persons in position to be well informed that a full investigation will show that no losses whatever as alleged have occurred. Hence all figures of the losses, pending searching inquiry now in progress, have but the value of estimates.

#### A Fine Citizen.

Mr. Thomas J. McCrary was admittedly one of the most prominent, public spirited, generous, and high-toned citizens of this section. He stood for that which was good and was always eager to upbuild this community. The people here do not think that he did anything wrong and in the very many conversations today it was never suggested that there was any moral wrong on the part of Mr. McCrary in anything he did, and the most that has been suggested was that his investments in cotton futures on account of the cotton mill were unauthorized and without the knowledge and consent of the board of directors.

This, as has been said, is denied by the friends of Mr. McCrary, and it is further stated that on previous occasions Mr. McCrary actually made money for the cotton mill by investments in futures, and that this money was placed to the account of the mill.

Some of the directors were asked specifically if this was a fact, and they positively denied that they had any knowledge of any money having been made during Mr. McCrary's administration through cotton futures.

As far as can be gathered, the mill has lost, estimating conservatively, about \$200,000 in some way. The directors of the cotton mill will not make an authorized statement, but from what can be gathered from them, about the first of September, when Mr. McCrary died, the cotton account ran to the amount of two hundred and one or two or four thousand dollars, and at the same time there was on hand in spot cotton eight hundred and seventy bales, which, at conservative prices, would have aggregated \$34,000 or \$37,000.

#### The Losses On Cotton.

The difference between the amount of cotton actually on hand, 875 bales, at that time, and the cotton account which aggregated at that time over \$200,000, represented a difference of about \$170,000. This, it is claimed, represents the amount of money put up in margins for cotton and covers the losses that were incurred on the cotton account. There may be, from what can be understood, a credit in this account of interest money. In addition to this \$170,000 which was included in the cotton account and which represented the margins that had been already put out and on cotton which was not in the warehouse, there appears to be a similar marginal account, of perhaps \$30,000 in the bank accounts.

These two items of \$170,000 of margins in the cotton account and the \$30,000 for margins in the bank accounts and other items represent as near as can be ascertained the losses that the stockholders of the Newberry Cotton mills will have to sustain.

The Newberry Cotton mill has been carrying large amounts of cotton on the first of September of each year, and from what can be gathered, about the first of September, 1900, they carried as much as \$30,000 worth of cotton; in 1901 \$134,169; in 1902 \$180,000; in 1903 \$272,000; in 1904 \$304,000. It may, therefore, be seen that a report that there was \$201,000 worth of cotton on hand on the first day of September need not have been surprising, and it may further be mentioned that the Newberry Cotton mills has been carrying large stocks of cotton. In fact, it may be of interest to know that in 1899 the cotton mill, in November, carried a stock of \$325,000; in March, 1900, \$348,000; in December, 1901, \$343,000; in March 1902, \$303,000; in December, 1903, \$344,000; in January, 1905, \$449,000.

#### Confidence In The President.

The directors of the Newberry Cotton mills, as well as the people of Newberry, have the most absolute and implicit confidence in the every action of President McCrary, and, from what I can understand, when he reported to the board that there was \$200,000 in cotton they, or at least those who would reply, believed it was spot cotton and partly margins; no one among all of those with whom I spoke questioned the purpose of Mr. McCrary to do the very best for the Newberry Cotton mills, of which he was president.

All seemed to think that his investments, while unauthorized, as some of them contend, were intended for the best interests of the cotton mill and to make money for the enterprise of which he was the head. Mr. McCrary himself held over \$30,000 worth of the stock and naturally, aside from the pride in the mill which he did so much

## THE GUBERNATORIAL CONTEST

### POLITICAL POSSIBILITIES AND THEIR PLATFORMS.

The Many Probable Aspirants For  
the Governorship, Who They  
are—Solution of Dispen-  
sary Question Will be  
Prominent.

Union Times.

This is the season of political gossip. Already the political architects are gathering material for their platforms and political prophets are discussing the prospective candidates. The newspapers are filled with comment and commendation in regard to those who will seek next summer the gubernatorial chair and many possibilities are in sight—indeed they recall Milton's graphic line

"Far off their coming shone."

The recent dispensary agitation and the development of marked and apparently invincible opposition to the dispensary system has greatly complicated the political situation in the state. Upon this question much will depend and the next campaign will surely decide the fate of the system. And it is certain that its struggle for life will be hard. He who will wear the gubernatorial toga will wear it after a hard fight.

There are many who wish to see Governor Heyward for a third time at the head of the political machinery of the Palmetto state, but it is almost undoubted that he will retire at the end of his present term. His election four years ago, when he was a comparatively unknown man and rather conservative in his views, has inspired many who have not served a political apprenticeship, and who have not been cradled in a political workshop, boldly to aspire to the gubernatorial honors.

The most prominent candidate just at present is Martin F. Ansel, of Greenville. Four years ago he developed surprising strength and was third in the race. His great strength lies in the upper part of the state. He has already briefly outlined his stand on the dispensary question and has declared that he believes in the principle of local option under regulation and supervision somewhat similar to the present dispensary regulation and supervision. Ansel is an opponent worthy of any man's steel. It is thought by many that had he been in the second race with Heyward four years ago the result might have been different; while there are many who doubt whether he is as strong now as he was then.

Senator John S. Brice of Yorkville, the author of the famous "Brice bill," is strongly mentioned as a probable candidate. He has made an excellent record as a lawmaker and the authorship of the bill which bears his name will commend him to many who antagonized the present dispensary system. He has never figured save in county politics and therefore nothing can be definitely stated as to what his strength might be. He is a hard fighter, thoroughly incorruptible, and fearless in his convictions.

The central portion of the state is always debatable ground and from it looms the formidable figure of Mendel L. Smith who has wielded the speaker's gavel during the session of the last three houses. His record as presiding officer in that body has never been excelled, as an appeal has never been taken from his decisions. He is a man of marked ability and though a young man has already developed the characteristics of the successful politician. He has many friends and is very popular. He will be very hard to defeat and his chances are very favorable.

Sumter sends into the arena Richard I. Manning, a man of unimpeach-

able integrity, and of great business ability. He has taken a strong stand, though not with selfish purpose, in the cotton fight, and is thoroughly in sympathy with that movement. He has served most acceptably as senator from his county and as president pro tem of the senate during the past session. He has outlined his platform which is not antagonistic to the dispensary system as it was first intended to be operated. With a clean record behind him and the good name of his family to uphold him, he ought to make an excellent showing before the people next summer.

Another prospective candidate who has led in the cotton fight, but with no motives save open ones is F. H. Hyatt of Richland, long connected with the agricultural interests of the state. He was prominent in the good roads agitation and was one of the first men to advocate the cotton movement in South Carolina. He is a first-rate business man with no political record. Gifted with much common sense and practical knowledge, he would appeal readily to the people of the state, however much his political inexperience might militate against him.

The Pee-Dee section has a favored son in the person of Robert P. Hamer, of Marion, a thoroughbred farmer and a most successful one. He left college after receiving his diploma and entered the post graduate school of the furrow and field where he has ever since remained. He is a strong man in his section, capable in and fair in all his large and various transactions. He has never aspired to political honors and has had nothing at all to say in regard to his prospective candidacy. His chances would not be unfavorable should he enter and his section would stand to him as one man.

Lieutenant-Governor John T. Sloan, of Richland, prominent in state politics for the past three decades may figure next year as a gubernatorial aspirant. He has been senator from his county and has served in his present capacity for two terms. He comes of an honorable family and made an excellent record in the days of 1876. He has not taken any marked stand in the cotton movement but in times past has been supposed to be in advocacy of the dispensary. It is hardly probable that he will run on a dispensary platform, however.

The only pronounced and avowed dispensary advocate is Cole L. Blease, of Newberry. He has been a henchman of the Tillman regime and has figured in politics for the past ten years. He was an unsuccessful candidate for lieutenant-governor four years ago. His championship of an unpopular cause would not add to his strength.

Among those who might run on a absolutely anti-dispensary platform is Joseph A. McCullough, of Greenville, a distinguished lawyer of that city. He has been first in the fight on that system and has been uncompromisingly against it. He is young, capable, fearless, though conservative, and aggressive in whatever he undertakes.

Chiefly by reason of his wonderful popularity, rather than on account of political views or beliefs, Mayor R. Goodwyn Rhett, of Charleston, has been mentioned, but he is a gentleman who would hardly give up his business to embark upon the uncertain sea of political fortune. He is thoroughly capable and as a municipal officer has no peer in the state.

Newberry may send another Richmond in the field in the person of A. C. Jones, who is an old enemy of the dispensary and its champions. It is not yet clear just what he will do.

Edgefield, the political Mecca of the state, may yet send into the contest that old Roman, John C. Shepard, the political hero of the old days. He bears the name of gentleman, upright, honest, fearless and

(Continued on the Second Page.)

## THE COLLEGES OPEN WITH FINE PROSPECTS

### INSTITUTIONS WHICH HAVE BEGUN WORK.

All Have Increased Attendance—More  
Boys and Girls at College in  
South Carolina This Year  
Than Ever Before.

The State.

Greenville, September 21.—At the opening of Furman university yesterday there were 200 in attendance for enrollment in the university proper and 45 in the Fitting school. This exceeds last year's attendance by 50 or more.

Greenville Female college opened yesterday with an enrollment of 200, with many more to come today and tomorrow. The fall enrollment will exceed last year by something like 20 per cent. The Greenville Female college management has found it necessary to secure considerable outside dormitory space in order to accommodate the great increase, and it is hoped by next year that the annex now being planned will be ready for occupancy. President James is enthusiastic over the outlook.

Chicora college opened Tuesday, but its enrollment is not yet complete, as pupils are coming in every day. The attendance now exceeds that of last year considerably.

#### Newberry College Prepared For a Crowd.

Newberry, September 21.—Pres. J. A. B. Scherer of Newberry college was seen by the correspondent today and questioned concerning the preparations for handling the heavy increase in number of students and increase in number of students and concerning the prospects and present condition of the institution. He said:

"Our preparations for an increased body of students have gone forward with great satisfaction. Not only will the renovated dormitories and boarding hall be in readiness, but the loyalty of the people of Newberry has responded to the increased demand for private boarding houses, as was to be expected under circumstances. New patrons from West Virginia have already secured accommodations with Mr. R. D. Wright, near the college. Mrs. John A. Summer has received applications for board from a number of North Carolinians. Mrs. Williams of Clinton will open a student boarding house in the Wilson residence. Mr. Dominick, near the campus, will be ready to accommodate table boarders, while other friends who stand by ready to assist the college in this matter, if necessary, are: Mrs. W. P. Houseal, Mrs. Longshore, Mrs. Aldrich, Mrs. Welch, Mrs. Gailliard, Mrs. J. F. Epting, Mr. J. W. White, Mr. B. M. Dennis, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. J. P. Mahon and Mrs. H. F. Cline. So Newberry will be ready for the students when they come. Mrs. F. M. Connor, the new matron of the campus boarding hall, is now in charge and putting things to rights. In addition to other improvements already mentioned, a new cement floor has been laid in Holland hall, to replace defective work, and the columns have been subjected to fresh treatment.

"The friends of the college continue to manifest their active interest in various ways. The Hon. A. F. Lever of Lexington and C. J. Ramage, Esq., of Saluda have kindly offered to establish a George W. Holland medal in philosophy, which the faculty have gratefully accepted, subject to the endorsement of the standing committee of the board of trustees. A friend in Virginia has provided the equivalent of a scholarship to assist Lutheran students for the ministry. And the J. B. Lippincott company of Philadelphia have recently made to the

(Continued on the Seventh Page.)